



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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June 1, 1995

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Site Inspection, Interpace Incorporated, Pleasant View Clay Pit, M/057/003, Weber County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 9, 1995  
Time of Inspection: 12:30 p.m.  
Conditions: Clear and warm  
Participants: Pat Patterson, Interpace Industries; Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To inspect reclamation conducted in 1991 for liability release.

I met Mr. Patterson at their plant in Pleasantview. We proceeded up to the mine site, which is approximately 8 miles from their plant. The access is via a dirt road off of Highway 89, about 1/4 mile past the old Rocky Point Restaurant. The mine has been inactive since the mid '80's with reclamation being conducted during 1990 and 1991 after negotiations with the surface/mineral owner hit a stale mate.

The area is basically divided into two main pit areas. The larger pit area to the east and a smaller area of about 3-4 acres to the west. Mr. G. Raymond Jones of Pleasantview, Utah is the surface owner.

At first look the area is very similar in appearance to surrounding non-disturbed areas. However, this entire area has been heavily over grazed as evidenced by a lack of desirable species in the adjacent areas with the exception of some sage brush (comprising about 10-15% vegetation cover). Most of the vegetation cover was made up by weedy species, such as bulbous bluegrass, cheatgrass and filaree. These three species also dominated both the undisturbed and reclaimed areas; however, there was some smooth brome and alfalfa in the reclaimed areas.

The eastern pit had better cover, with about 22% vegetation cover of desirable species, this being mainly alfalfa and sagebrush. The western pit had only 11% cover; mostly sagebrush. Overall, the reclaimed area had about 65% vegetation cover, the difference being the weedy species. The undisturbed areas had 71% vegetation cover, with about 60% of that being the weedy species. Discounting the weedy species, reclamation is within 70% of the desired species covered the surrounding areas.

Interpace Brick had two problems in doing the reclamation: 1) it appears when the mine was first opened in the early 60's, the operator had removed overburden materials (topsoil) to the outside edges of the pits. This material is still in place, because when they did the reclamation, the surface owner did not want them to spread this material back over the pit area.



Site Inspection  
June 1, 1995  
M/057/003  
Page 2

This probably limited the success of revegetation efforts. These piles of topsoil or overburden material had over 90% vegetation cover on them; and 2) the extreme heavy grazing that Mr. Jones is doing on his land and the fact that he would not allow Interpace to control the level of grazing in the area. Many of the desirable plants had been grazed right down to ground level, leaving only the competitive weedy species flourishing. Without controlling grazing, any additional efforts increasing the diversity of this site for reclamation would probably be futile.

It is my recommendation at this time, given the status of the land and the landowner not wanting Interpace to do anything else, that the Division release Interpace from any additional liability on this site and release the reclamation bond in full.

jb  
cc: Pat Patterson, Interpace Industries, Inc.  
M057003.ins